(घ) रानीखेत-भिकियासैण मार्ग पर गैस वितरण वैन को मासी चौखुटिया मार्ग से होकर रानीखेत पहुंचाने के लिये सरकार कब तक कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) से (घ) आई ओ सी मैसर्स रानीखेत गैस सर्विस के माध्यम से अल्मोड़ा जिले में भिकियासैण चौखुटिया मार्ग पर पहले ही एल पी जी का विपणन कर रही है। मैसर्स रानीखेत गैस सर्विस नीचे दर्शाये गए 13 विस्तार केन्द्रों के माध्यम से क्षेत्र में एल पी जी का विपणन कर रही है:

1. दाराहाट
2. चौखुटिया
3. सुरईसेत
4. बनहालीपोखर
5. मजखाली
6. ताड़ीखेत
7. चिनियाखोला
8. पिलखौली
9. जैनौली
10. मतरोजखान
11. बसौत
12. भिकियासैण
13. जलौली

तेल कंपनियां समय समय पर भिकियासैण-मसी-चौखुटिया मार्ग जैसे विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में चरणबद्ध ढंग से और नए विस्तार केन्द्र खोलने पर, प्रचलित नीति के अधीन निर्धारित मानकों के पूरा होने के अध्यधीन विचार करती है। आई ओ सी मासी में भी एल पी जी की आपूर्ति के लिए सर्वेक्षण करने के उपाय कर रही है।

Staganation in Domestic Crude Oil Production

990. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to probe into the mystery of stagnation in domestic crude oil production leading to increased dependence on import which has become a permanent feature inspite of the country having 26 sedimentary basins of which only 6 have been explored so far; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government is seized of the problem of near stagnant level of crude oil production in the country. A Committee of experts under Shri K. Narayanan was set up by the Government in 1996. The Committee has submitted its first report covering Bombay High. A monitorable action plan has also been submitted to Government for implementation of the recommendations of the above committee. Crude oil production from existing sources is regularly monitored by Government. As regards the status of exploration in different basins, out of 26 sedimentary basins, 11 basins are moderate to well explored out of which commercial production has been established in 7 basins. 10 of the basins are poorly explored. Government has also announced a new Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) to accelerate exploration and production of crude oil in the country. As a result of the various measures taken to intensify exploration and production of hydrocarbons, the crude oil production during the IXth plan is tentatively estimated to be around 180 MMT as against the production of 154.3 MMT during the VIIIth plan.

Fall in International Oil Prices

991. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the international prices of oil has come down considerably recently;

(b) if so, what were the average prices during the year 1995, 1996 and 1997 and month-wise for the year 1998; and

(c) what financial benefit is expected to accrue from reduction in import bill of the crude oil and other petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) During the period from November, 1997 to March, 1998, the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market declined. However, the declining trend changed towards end March 1998 and oil prices rose in April, 1998.

(b) The required information is given in Annexure. [See Appendix 184 Annexure No. 28].

(c) Prices of oil in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuations and any movement in the international prices is bound to have an impact on our import cost. It is, therefore, difficult to predict the savings expected in future imports.

Price Hike of LPG and Allied Products

992. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hike prices of LPG and allied products to the tune of 33 per cent; and

(b) if so, the need and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2000-01. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

Complaints against Dealer and Officials of IOC and HPC in West Bengal

993. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the complaints against the dealers/oil company officials of Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation by the LPG consumers in West Bengal as ventilated in local newspaper Ananda Bazar Patrika dated 19th November, 1997 and 5th December, 1997;

(b) whether the grievance redressal system has become totally non-functional forcing consumers to approach newspapers with their complaints;

(c) if not, the action taken so far by the Companies against the errant dealers and the officials based on the above complaints; and

(d) the action taken by the Oil Companies to strengthen their grievance redressal system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes Sir, IOCL and HPCL are aware of the complaints published in the Local Newspapers by LPG consumers including Ananda Bazar Patrika dated 19.11.97 and 5.12.97. Inspections are carried out by the officers of Customer Service Cells of IOCL and HPCL. Appropriate penal action is taken against the erring distributors under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, which includes warning letters, fines and suspension and termination. Necessary action has been taken on all complaints received from consumers in West Bengal. Recently the Marketing Discipline Guidelines have been revised in May, 1998 and made very